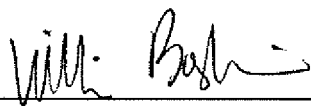


REMARKS

By the above amendment, claims 1-17 and Abstract have been amended to delete reference characters and to place in closer conformance to U.S. patent practice, and claims 4, 6, 7 and 11-17 have been further amended to delete multiple claim dependency. Claims 1-17 are presently pending in the application for consideration by the Examiner. Therefore, no estoppel should be deemed to be associated with this amendment.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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